

(c) determining the level of binding of said labelled ligand to hER β in said test and control cultures; and

(d) identifying as a hER β -interactive compound any compound that reduces the binding of said labelled ligand to hER β .

20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said ligand is 17- β estradiol.

21. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER β -interactive compound is an agonist.

22. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER β -interactive compound is an antagonist.

Please add the following new claims:

24. A method for identifying hER β -interactive compounds, said method comprising:

(a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 18, which polypeptide encodes hER β , with a labelled ligand in the presence of test compounds, to form test reactions, and in the absence of test compounds, to form control reactions;

(b) incubating said test and control reactions under appropriate conditions to achieve equilibrium binding of said labelled ligand to hER β ;

(c) determining the level of binding of said labelled ligand to hER β in said test and control cultures; and